

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01

COME-00 CIEP-02 STR-08 SS-20 AID-20 SWF-02 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 031416

R 141715Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0456

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF FOOD AID CONVENTION

REF: STATE 28915, BONN 1544

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE FRG CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR A POSITIVE EC POSITION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE FOOD AID CONVENTION, IT IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF ITS EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE EXTENSION OF THE FOOD AID CONVENTION (FAC) WITH DITTMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOOD POLICY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN HIS PRESENTATION EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH

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EC RATIFICATION OF THE FAC EXTENSION AS WELL AS

IMPROVEMENT IN EC PERFORMANCE IN MEETING FAC
OBLIGATIONS AS DETERMINANTS OF THE ULTIMATE US
POSITION ON FAC RENEWAL.

3. IN RESPONSE DITTMAN STATED THAT THE FRG FULLY
SUPPORTS AN EXTENSION OF THE FAC FOR TWO YEARS. HE
SAID THIS POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH CHANCELLOR
BRANDT'S STATEMENT AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST
FALL AND IS SUPPORTED BY A CABINET LEVEL DECISION.
HE NOTED THAT GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FAC WAS
AN EC MATTER NOT A BILATERAL MATTER HOWEVER, AND
ADDED THAT THE EC WAS STILL UNABLE TO COME UP
WITH A COMMON POSITION IN SPITE OF TWO EC COUNCIL
MEETINGS AND GERMAN INTERVENTION AT THE AMBASSADORIAL
LEVEL IN BOTH LONDON AND COPENHAGEN. HE STATED
THAT IT NOW LOOKS AS IF THE EC WILL HAVE TO SAY
AT THE FEBRUARY 20 MEETING THAT AT THE PRESENT
TIME (DITTMAN STRESSED AT THE PRESENT TIME) IT
CANNOT AGREE TO AN EXTENSION OF THE FAC. DITTMAN
NOTED THAT THE FRG MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO REACH A
COMPROMISE WITHIN THE EC WITHOUT SUCCESS.

4. DITTMAN STRESSED THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP FOOD AID GIVEN THE PRESENT TIGHT
SUPPLY SITUATION IN THE WORLD AND THE CONTINUED
NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT ONE
MIGHT ARGUE THAT FOOD AID IS NOT THE MOST EFFICIENT
FORM OF ASSISTANCE BUT NONETHELESS IT WAS ESSENTIAL
THAT IT NOT BE ABRUPTLY BROUGHT TO A HALT. BECAUSE
OF THIS FACT DITTMAN SAID THE FRG WAS GOING TO PUSH
HARD TO HAVE THE EC STATE AT THE FEBRUARY 20 MEETING
THAT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS IN NO POSITION TO AGREE TO
THE EXTENSION OF THE FAC EC MEMBERS WOULD CONTINUE
TO PROVIDE FOOD AID AT EITHER A COMMUNITY OR A
BILATERAL LEVEL. DITTMAN ADMITTED THAT THE EC
WAS BEHIND IN ITS COMMITMENTS ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED
THAT THE FRG WAS UP TO DATE ON ITS BILATERAL SHARE
OF THE EC PROGRAM.

5. DITTMAN QUESTIONED THE US CONTENTION THAT
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REDUCTIONS IN SHIPMENTS OF FOOD AID LED TO INCREASED
DEMAND FOR US WHEAT. HE SAID IT HAD BEEN HIS
EXPERIENCE THAT MOST EC FOOD AID SHIPMENTS WENT TO
THE VERY POOREST REGIONS OF THE WORLD WHERE THE
NEED IS GREAT BUT WHERE EFFECTIVE DEMAND IS MINIMAL.

6. IN CLOSING, DITTMAN NOTED THAT THE FOOD AID
CONVENTION HAD ITS ORIGINS IN THE KENNEDY ROUND

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT FORTHCOMING MTN WOULD BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH AS IT IS AND HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE LOADED DOWN WITH PROBLEMS OF FOOD AID. EMBOFF REMARKED THAT WHILE FOOD AID ITSELF MIGHT NOT BE A TOPIC, THE USG WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS OF RAW MATERIALS SUPPLIES AND THAT ACCESS TO SUPPLIES WOULD CERTAINLY BE AN APPROPRIATE TOPIC FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. DITTMAN AGREED FULLY. HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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